

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"

Russ Guiney, Director

July 2, 2009

Media Contacts:

Joyce Fitzpatrick, Public Information Assistant (626) 821-4645 Or Imee Perius Public Information Officer (213) 738-2963

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation Announces Modified Summer Hours for County Nature Centers and Three Public Lakes' Swim Beaches Beginning Monday, July 6, 2009

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation will modify its summer hours for public lake swim beaches and close three of its public lakes for swimming on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning July 6, 2009 until September 7, 2009. There will not be any lifeguards on duty at the swim beaches on the days the lake swim beaches will be closed. Signs will be posted at park entrances and various locations near the lakes advising the public of the swim beach closures. Hours for the County of Los Angeles Nature Center buildings and displays will also be modified and the buildings and displays will close on non-holiday Mondays beginning July 6, 2009. The Nature Center facilities will remain open for all other access such as hiking and picnicking.

County of Los Angeles lakes that will be closed for swimming are Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, 15501 East Arrow Highway in Irwindale, California; Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, 120 Via Verde Drive, San Dimas, California and Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, 32132 Castaic Lake Drive, Castaic, CA. Although swimming will be restricted, the lakes and the surrounding resort areas will remain open for picnicking, boating, fishing and all other recreational activities.

The County Nature Center buildings and displays will be open Tuesdays – Sundays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Although the Nature Center buildings will be closed on non-holiday Mondays, the Natural Areas will still be open for hiking and picnicking. The Nature Center buildings that will be closed on non-holiday Mondays are:

<u>Deane Dana Friendship Community Regional Park & Nature Center</u> 1805 W. 9th Street San Pedro, CA 90732 (310) 519-6115 <u>Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area</u> 28000 Devil's Punchbowl Road Pearblossom, CA 93553 (661) 944-2743

Eaton Canyon Nature Center 1750 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 398-5420

Placerita Canyon Natural Area & Nature Center 19152 Placerita Canyon Road Newhall, CA 91321 (661) 259-7721

San Dimas Canyon Community Regional Park & Nature Center 1628 N. Sycamore Canyon Road San Dimas, CA 91773 (909) 599-7512

Vasquez Rocks Natural Area & Nature Center 10700 W. Escondido Canyon Road Agua Dulce, CA 91390 (661) 268-0840

Whittier Narrows Nature Center 1000 N. Durfee Ave. South El Monte, CA 91733 (626) 575-5523

The closure of these County Regional lakes and Nature Centers on certain days is due to the reduction in staffing hours because of County budget curtailments. There will not be any lifeguards on duty at the swim beaches on the days the public lake swim beaches will be closed. The County of Los Angeles appreciates the public's cooperation and compliance to these restrictions.

For information regarding all County of Los Angeles community and regional parks, museums, nature centers and more please visit the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation website at www.lacountyparks.org.